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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China/Indochina

DATE DISTR. 23 March 1951

SUBJECT Aid to Viet Minh Forces from China

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1. On 4 March 2 Soviet ships and one Japanese-type submarine left Yulin Harbor (109-34, 18-13) for Indochina with 35 x 150 mm artillery pieces,\* 50 x 13 mm machine guns, 200 grenade launchers, 6 anti-aircraft guns, and a number of rocket launchers, light machine guns, grenades, and other equipment for Viet Minh troops.
2. In early March the Hainan authorities were organizing a "Volunteers Unit" to aid Viet Minh troops. Approximately 3,000 "volunteers" were being trained at T'engchiao (109-43, 18-23).
3. In February, after a Chinese Communist propaganda campaign on Hainan, approximately 1,000 young men of the Li (黎) tribes of Yaihsien (109-10, 18-24) "volunteered" for military training and subsequent service with Viet Minh troops.
4. During February approximately 600 tons of weapons and ammunition were shipped by motor junk from Hainan to Palan (巴蘭) Village, Thanh Hoa (105-45, 19-54), Indochina. The shipment was turned over to YANG Fu-shih (楊富石), LI Ching-hua (李經華), and CH'EN Ch'uan-tsan (陳全贊), all Vietnamese.
5. Supplies are being sent from Nanning to Viet Minh troops by the following routes:
  - a. By water from Nanning on the Tsochiang (107- , 22- ) to Lungchou (106-56, 22-22), and then to Shuik'oukuan (106-34, 22-28).
  - b. By land from Nanning to Caobang via Chinghsi (106-25, 23-09).

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\* Comment. No weapons of this size have been reported in use by Viet Minh forces, nor has this office received any information indicating that facilities for the transport of such large pieces exist in Viet Minh territory. Furthermore, it is doubtful that two ships of sufficient size to handle 35 of these pieces could successfully unload them without detection and serious harassment by French air patrols; even barring detection, unloading would be most difficult with the limited port facilities available.

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